Atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh

†2422. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in "Navbharat Times' dated the 3rd June, 2002 under the caption ""Bangladesh Mein Hinduon Ke Viruddh Hinsa Zarri:— Amnesty"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to prevent incidents of atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the news-item that had appeared in the '*Navbharat Times*' on 3rd June, 2002 regarding the Amnesty report on the violence against minorities in Bangladesh.

2. Since the elections in Bangladesh in October 2001, the Government has noted with serious concern reports of a number of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. Following the reports of attacks on minorities, our High Commissioner in Dhaka immediately took it up with Bangladesh Government. He met Bengladesh State Minister for Religious Affairs Mr. Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan on October 16, 2001 and conveyed our concern. The Government also issued a Statement on 23rd October, 2001 expressing its concern on the reports of attacks on minorities.

3. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM and National Security Advisor visited Dhaka from 26-27 October, 2001 as Special Envoy of PM and took up the matter during his meetings with the leadership of Bangladesh.

4. India's concern was conveyed by Hon'ble Prime Minister when Mr. Saifur Rehman, Bangladesh Finance Minister had called on him on 4th December, 2001. Hon'ble Prime Minister again raised the issue during his meeting with Bengum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bangladesh when the latter had called on him on 4th January, 2002 at Kathmandu.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During the meeting Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh had stated that a number of cases were filed after investigations. Our High Commission in Dhaka is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

American aid to Pakistan

2423. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the U.S. has recently paid to Pakistan more than eight billion dollars while, many a times expressing fear of Indo-Pak nuclear war and even asked its citizens to leave India;

(b) whether Government have reportely "nailed America for double-speak on Pak" and revealed that "New Delhi's patience with America's South Asia Policy may be wearing thin" and expressed the view "we don't see signs of an end, rather there has been a revival" support to cross-border terrorism; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to deal with this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has raised its concerns about the impact that provision of aid to Pakistan for its role in the war against Al Qaida and Taliban operatives will have on Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism in India, which is the cause of the present tension in the region. In this context, Government has also apprised the international community, including the United States, that cross-boder infiltration and terrorist incidents continue in Jammu and Kashmir, despite President Musharraf's commitment to put a permanent end to it.

(c) Government's strong and purposive international engagement has led to the acknowledgement by a number of countries, including the United States, that cross-border infiltration and terrorist incidents continue to take place and that President Musharraf must deliver on the promises to permanently end infiltration and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including the camps, before a dialogue could begin between India and Pakistan.